THE ARCHITECT OF THE LATE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

Sir,—In your number of the 17th of this month, in a communication "On the Identification of Architects," your correspondent suggests that "it has never been clearly decided if the late Royal Exchange and Temple Bar ought to be attributed to Wren or not?" I never knew the latter doubted, but about the former building, there is generally a misapprehension, which I shall be happy of the use of your valuable pages to clear up. There is fortunately no difficulty in doing this, because the Records of the City and the Mercers, Company upon the subject of rebuilding the Exchange after the great fire in 1666, are perfect and complete. All the more interesting portions have been extracted with great care and skill, and were printed for the use of the corporation in the year 1838. From a copy of these extracts now before me, I obtain the following facts:—

That on the 19th —, 1666, the commissioners appointed to the work summoned to their assistance Mr. Mills and Mr. Jerman, the city surveyors.

On the 9th of November, the committee speak of some "distast," amongst the surveyors, as retarding the work of preparing a design and estimate for restoring the ruined Exchange of Sir Thomas Gresham; a Mr. Hooke, also one of the city surveyors, gives a report and estimate on the 10th of November, on the same subject.

After clearing the ruins and other works and after some coquetting on the part of Mr. Jerman, in which interval it appears to have been determined that the building should be entirely new,—at a joint committee, held on the 25th April, 1667 the following minute is recorded:—

"The committee, concluding it very necessary at this meeting, to make choyce of a surveyor for directing and overseeing the building of the Royall Exchange, and assisting them in the carrying on that designe, to the best advantage, as to substantiallnesse, ornament, and frugality; and forasmuch as Mr. Mills, the city surveyor, hath declared that hee cannot perform that worke alone, and the committee being very sensible of the greate burthen of businesse lying upon him for the city att this time; and considering that Mr. Jerman is the most able knowne artist (besides him) that the city now hath: therefore the committee unanimously made choice of Mr. Jerman to assist the committee in the agreeing for, ordering, and directing of that worke; and, haveing declared the same unto him, hee after much reluctancy and unwillingness (objecting, it might bee thought an intrenchment upon Mr. Mills his right), at length accepted, being assured first by the Lord Mayor and the committee, that itt was no intrenchment, that this wholle committee, at all times, would acquit him from any scandall in that behalfe; then the committee ordered the clarke to acquaint Mr. Jerman with all the proceedinges of this committee about the said building."

After this appointment Mr. Mills's name does not occur again, and the works evidently proceeded with great rapidity, for they were finished within three years and a half from the period of Jerman's appointment. From another entry it appears the name of the architect was Edward, and that a brother, Roger Jerman, was carpenter at the new works. The name is spelt variously, and it occurs as German, Jerman, and Jermin.

"At a committee, on the 20th Sept., it was resolved, That as his Majesty hath much concerned himself with the building of the Royal Exchange, and apprehending it to be the duty of the committee to present him with a view of the drafts thereof, before they proceed to the maine worke," "they desire the lord mayor and four members of the comm., and Mr. Jerman, to wait upon his Majesty with the same."

On the 27th this committee report that "The drafts have been presented to and viewed by his Majesty and Sir John Denham, surveyor-general of his workes, and his Majesty declared his approbation and good liking thereof."

On the 9th Dec. occurs the following entry. "The committee considering that Mr. Jerman, who was chosen surveyor for rebuilding the Exchange in April last, hath not yet received any gratification for drawing drafts and directing the building, they therefore ordered that 50*l.* shall be payed him upon account, until further consideration of his merits." These extracts I think you will agree with me, prove that Edward German was the sole architect. In these records Sir Christopher Wren is spoken of, under date of the 7th Jan., 1670, as "Dr. Wren, surveyor general of his Majesty's workes."

The clock and chimes were made by Edward Stanton, under direction of the celebrated Mr. Hooke, at the cost of 120*l.*

"The bells, which were to be ten in number, 'sound and durable,' were cast by Wm. Wightman, founder, at the rate of vj*l.* vs. for every hundred weight the said bells shall weigh."

I beg to apologize for having occupied so much of your valuable space, and am, Sir, &c.,

25th Nov. 1845. W. T.

DO THE CITIZENS REGARD THEIR ANTIQUITIES?

St. Helen's Place, December 1, 1845.

Mr. Tite presents his compliments to the editor of The Builder, and with reference to an article by Mr. C. R. Smith, entitled "Do the Citizens regard their Antiquities?"—which appeared in The Builder of Saturday—would be obliged by the insertion of the inclosed correspondence. Mr. Tite would only desire to add one remark; viz., that in the statement he made at the "Institute," he intended no reference whatever, to the very respectable gentlemen, whose names are most unnecessarily introduced into Mr. Smith's communication:—

(*Copy.*)

5, Liverpool-street, City, Nov. 19, 1845.

Sir,—I have before me a report of a speech made by you at a meeting of the British Architects on Monday, in which occur the following passages:—

1. "In this, however, they were thwarted by private collectors, who went about amongst the men offering sums of money for coins and other articles. They had been attacked in the public press by one of these, and he would not parry the question, but mention the name of Mr. Roach Smith, *as he had been mentioned by him.*"

2. "Every care was taken for the preservation of this collection complete; in which they, however, were foiled, from the activity of these collectors. Amongst the most active was Mr. Roach Smith, who secured many, and particularly a bell which rang, after which there was a regular chase, but Mr. Smith had the best, and got possession."

I believe the above extracts from your speech, are *verbatim* as they were uttered. Reference has also been made by you to remarks made by me some years since; but mention of page, volume, and work, does not appear to have been added. Whatever observations I have felt myself called upon to make, with respect to the treatment of their antiquities by the "City authorities," I have made *openly*, and *where they could have been refuted, if incorrect.* After a lapse of some years, you have chosen to give utterance (if the report be true) to *most gross misrepresentations* of my conduct, in a place where you must have known *I was not present to refute your assertions.*

I lose no time in protesting against the injustice of the course you have been pleased to take, as well as against the misrepresentations and concealment of facts, which, by the report, it appears you have made; and I assure you, I shall omit no opportunity of contradicting your statement, and of laying before the public *facts* which I can substantiate by full and undeniable evidence. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) Charles Roach Smith.

William Tite, Esq.

(*Copy.*)

17, St. Helen's Place, Nov. 24, 1845.

Sir,—The extracts in your note of the 19th are, in the main, correct; not, indeed, as having been uttered by me in any set speech at the Institute of British Architects, but as a part of statements made in a slight discussion which followed the reading of the letter of Mr. Hawkins, informing the Institute of the intention of the trustees of the British Museum to open a department for the reception of British antiquities. In that letter the following sentence occurs:—"The claims of archæology, once publicly recognised, antiquities, when discovered, would no longer be ignorantly destroyed or dispersed, but would be scrupulously collected together into one place; the circumstance of their discovery, would be registered with far greater accuracy, and the result, in a few years, would be a most interesting collection of monuments of national art, and the development of the history of successive races, so far as it can be gathered from the evidences of archæology, and as it is exhibited in the museums of foreign countries." Towards the end, the fellows of the Institute are addressed through this public announcement, and a hope is expressed "that, by their authority and example, an active interest in the preservation of antiquities; may be created in the whole body of the profession, and may gradually be communicated to their clerks, and to the foremen, and others more immediately set over workmen employed in labours of excavation and demolition."

In congratulating the meeting, in common with other members, on the gratifying announcement of this letter, I took occasion to say, that the object having now been made a national one, I did not doubt of its success: that the attempts made by the corporate authorities of the city of London, to collect a Museum in connection with the City Library, had been very much thwarted by the *exertions* of private collectors; that the most active was Mr. C. Roach Smith, who, not contented with securing by every means in his power, the possession of curiosities of this nature, had, most ungratefully, attacked those who were anxious to forward his public researches, but not willing to encourage his personal objects. That this gentleman had thought fit publicly to impugn the conduct of the Gresham committee, and myself, inferentially as their architect, in an article published in the *Archæologia*, and, subsequently, in other works; and that, as this was the first public opportunity which had occurred to me of rebutting those accusations, I availed myself of the opportunity to do so.

That it was always expected from the site of the Old Exchange—in the very heart of ancient London — and from the deep and extensive excavations required for the new building, that many interesting relics would be discovered; and, as architect of the building, and a Fellow of the Antiquarian Society, of some standing, I was most anxious that no pains nor expense should be spared to follow out those researches; to identify the circumstances under which any curiosities might be found, to keep them together, either in the City Library, or to deposit them in the New Gresham College; as the nucleus of a collection, and in connection with a new library, which I hoped would one day rival that destroyed in the Fire of London. To this end I made the following recommendations to the committee:—That the hoarding round the site should be made perfect and sound, to enable the excavators to work uninterruptedly, and to secure a certain control over them: That the contractor should be bound to deliver up to the committee any article which might be found, and to take every possible care of such matters: That the clerks of the works should be desired to watch with the greatest attention, and that the foreman of the contractors should have the same charge: That a large room in one of the houses in Freemab's-court, occupied by the clerks of the works, should be appropriated to the reception, arrangement, and custody of all antiquities so discovered: and, further, to prevent the workmen being bribed to dishonesty, that they should be informed, by a printed notice delivered to them, and extensively circulated, that an account would be kept of what each man might find, and that they would be liberally compensated; but that, on the contrary, every attempt to secrete any article, and to sell it, was illegal, and would be punished. That the Gresham committee adopted these suggestions most willingly, and, with the chairman, were personally anxious, and took much interest in the result.

That some short period after the adoption of these regulations—having entirely for their object the suggestions and recommendations of Mr. Hawkins' letter—I was waited upon by you, requesting an order to enable you to visit

For more information on PDF Compression and OCR visit ThePaperlessOffice.org